



Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
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MEDIA RELEASE

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ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MEETS FEDERAL OZONE STANDARD

Lancaster – The air quality in the Antelope Valley has met the federal one-hour national ambient air quality standard for ozone, according to a letter received from the California Air Resources Board dated February 25 to the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District.

The designation demonstrates the region's air quality status has improved through the efforts of local business and residents. The determination of "attainment" is made when an area is found to have met the federal, one-hour ozone standard. The attainment designation is made if there are no violations recorded for a period of three consecutive calendar years of complete and certified ambient air monitoring data. After reviewing local ozone data from 2009 to 2012, CARB requested the United States Environmental Protection Agency make a determination that air quality in the Antelope Valley region met the standard.

In addition, the most recent data for 2013 indicates that no days exceeded the one-hour ozone standard in the region. In sharp contrast 77 days exceeded the standard basin-wide in 1994.

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“We are pleased that the state has recognized the clean air efforts of the businesses and residents of the Antelope Valley,” commented AVAQMD Governing Board Chair Marvin Crist. “This milestone brings our region one step closer to attaining the air quality standards while continuing to facilitate the siting of new businesses in the Valley.”

The Federal Clean Air Act requires USEPA to set standards for pollutants which are considered harmful to public health and the environment, such as ozone, the primary component of photochemical smog. These standards have been progressively tightened through the years, as health studies and technology have determined that more stringent thresholds are needed to protect asthmatics and other sensitive individuals.

In 1991, a portion of the Southeast Desert Air Basin – which includes the Antelope Valley- was designated nonattainment for the federal one-hour ozone standard, based on air monitoring data collected within the air basin. Although the one-hour standard was subsequently revoked in 1997 by the USEPA- and replaced with a more stringent eight-hour standard – many regions continued to have regulatory obligations under the former standard. The Antelope Valley was among the regions required to meet the original one-hour standard’s regulatory obligations.

“Through the combined efforts of air district staff and Governing Board representatives from the City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale and Los Angeles County, the Antelope Valley’s air

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has met a once seemingly unattainable air quality standard,” said Crist, adding, “It’s a good day for the health of our residents and our economy.”

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